



**Pacific Gas and  
Electric Company®**

**James M. Welsch**  
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PG&E Letter DCL-2013-503

Certified/Return Receipt  
# 7010-1060-0000-4204-4500

January 31, 2013

Sarah Wilkin  
Stranding Coordinator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

2012 Annual Sea Turtle Report for Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP)

Dear Ms. Wilkin,

As required by the biological opinion (issued: September 18, 2006) generated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) biologists and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries staff, the enclosed annual report summarizes sea turtles observed in the vicinity of DCPP during 2012.

One small green sea turtle was found in an intake structure forebay on September 21, 2012. The turtle was released to the open ocean unharmed on the same day. No other sea turtles were observed in the vicinity of DCPP during 2012.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the enclosed report, or require additional information, please contact James Kelly at (805) 545-3194.

Sincerely,

James M. Welsch  
Station Director, Diablo Canyon Power Plant

2013503/jlk

Enclosures (1)

IE25  
NRR

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Sarah Wilkin, NMFS  
January 31, 2013  
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cc: Alan B. Wang  
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Rockville, MD 20852-2738

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant 104/5

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Arlington, TX 76011-4125

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

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NMFS January 31, 2013

ENCLOSURE 1

**2012 ANNUAL  
SEA TURTLE REPORT  
FOR  
DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT**

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY**

**NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION**

**2012 Annual  
Sea Turtle Report  
For  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant**

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

2012 ANNUAL  
SEA TURTLE REPORT  
FOR  
DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT

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## **INCIDENTAL TAKE REPORTS**

One green sea turtle was discovered in DCP's intake structure on September 21, 2012. The live, healthy and uninjured, sea turtle was measured, tagged, and released unharmed about one mile offshore of the power plant on the same day. A copy of the sea turtle stranding report submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on October 17, 2012 is included in Appendix 1.

## **INTAKE INSPECTION RECORDS**

In the 24-hours prior to the incidental take of the green sea turtle in September 2012, Intake Operators inspected the intake forebays approximately every 12 hours. A summary table of the inspections conducted during this time period is included in Appendix 2.

## **SEA TURTLE PHOTOGRAPHS**

Several photographs were taken of the green sea turtle found in DCP's intake structure September 21, 2012. Four photographs of the turtle were incorporated in the stranding report submitted to the NMFS on October 17, 2012 (Reference Appendix 1).

## **SEA TURTLE OBSERVATIONS**

Biological monitoring and other activities occurred routinely in the waters around DCP throughout 2012. Other than the green sea turtle found in the power plant intake structure in September, there were no other sea turtles observed in the vicinity of DCP during 2012.

## **STATUS OF DCP INCIDENTAL TAKE LEVEL**

DCP's 2006 Incidental Take Statement allows the following levels of sea turtle take for the period 2007 through 2026.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Total Entrainment</u>	<u>Mortality</u>	<u>Serious Injury</u>
Green	15 turtles	3 turtles	1 turtle
Leatherback	3 turtles	1 turtle	1 turtle
Loggerhead	3 turtles	1 turtle	1 turtle
Olive Ridley	3 turtles	1 turtle	1 turtle

Sea turtles taken and released since 2006: Four healthy green sea turtles (one in 2007, one in 2009, one in 2010, and one in 2012).

As four healthy green sea turtle were taken and released since 2006, DCP has eleven remaining allowed green sea turtle takes for 2013 through 2026. Leatherback, Loggerhead, and Olive Ridley allowed takes remain at three. There have been no sea turtle mortalities or serious injuries.

## **ACTIONS TO REDUCE SEA TURTLE ENTRAINMENT**

DCPP took no specific direct actions to reduce sea turtle entrainment during 2012. Sea turtles continue to be rare in the vicinity of the power plant. In addition, all incidental takes to date have been live, healthy and uninjured, sea turtles that were released unharmed.

Signs reminding operations and maintenance personnel to watch for turtles during inspection rounds were installed at the intake in early 2007, and remained in place throughout 2012.

2012 Annual Sea Turtle Report  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant

**APPENDIX 1**

**Sea Turtle Incidental Take Report**

October 17, 2012  
(5-Pages)





**Pacific Gas and  
Electric Company**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant  
P.O. Box 56  
Avila Beach, CA 93424

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7010-1060-0000-4204-4340

October 17, 2012

Sarah Wilkin, Stranding Coordinator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

Dear Ms. Wilkin:

Enclosed is a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Marine Mammal and Marine Turtle Stranding Report for a sea turtle discovered in the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) intake structure.

A live sea turtle was discovered in the 1-2 intake structure forebay by plant operations personnel at approximately 3:45 p.m. on September 21, 2012. The turtle was identified as a green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*).

As authorized in DCP's incidental take statement issued September 18, 2006, DCP staff removed the turtle from the intake structure that afternoon (September 21, 2012) for release offshore of the facility. The turtle was removed by salmon net and transported to a facility boat. The plant biologist completed measurements of the specimen, and photographs were taken. The photographs are enclosed in addition to the stranding report. The turtle was estimated to weigh 18 pounds, with a shell length (notch-tip) of 19 inches, and appeared to be in good health based on visual observation. There were no abrasions or indication of any injury. The turtle was tagged on the left front flipper with tag #MC-0, and subsequently transported by boat and released in the ocean approximately one mile southwest of DCP. The turtle swam away strongly in a southerly direction following release.

Discovery and release of the turtle was reported to NMFS via telephone on September 21, 2012, within the required 48-hour reporting period.


Live green sea turtles have been discovered at DCP's intake on ten previous occasions during commercial operations: August 08, 2010, September 08, 2009, July 23, 2007, February 27, 2001, April 16, 2000, August 24, 1999, May 29, 1999, June 12, 1997, January 10, 1997, and April 27, 1994. Green sea turtles are infrequently observed in the coastal waters off of DCP.

COPY

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Sarah Wilkin, NMFS  
October 17, 2012  
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If you have any questions or concerns regarding the enclosed report, or require additional information, please contact Jim Kelly of my staff at (805) 545-3194.

Sincerely,



Kenneth W. Cortese  
*Manager – Chemistry and Environmental Operations*

2012538/jlk/bkc

Enclosures (2)

cc w/enclosures:

Alan B. Wang  
NRR Project Manager  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North  
Mail Stop 08B1  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Laura Micewski  
Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant 104/5

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Marine Region  
California Department of Fish and Game  
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr. Suite 100  
Monterey, CA 93940

## MARINE MAMMAL AND MARINE TURTLE STRANDING REPORT

SID# \_\_\_\_\_  
(NMFS USE)

FIELD NO.: \_\_\_\_\_ NMFS REGISTRATION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

COMMON NAME: Green Sea Turtle GENUS: Chelonia SPECIES: mydasEXAMINER Name: James L. Kelly Agency: Pacific Gas & Electric Co. Phone: (805) 545-3194Address: Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP), P.O. Box 56, Avila Beach, California 93424

LOCATION State: <u>CA</u> County: <u>San Luis Obispo</u> City: <u>Avila Beach</u> Locality Details: <u>Diablo Canyon</u> Power Plant (DCPP) 9-Miles NW of Avila Beach. 1-2 Forebay Bar Rack of the Plant Intake Structure. *Latitude: <u>35° 12' 44"</u> N *Longitude: <u>120° 51' 13"</u> W	TYPE OF OCCURRENCE Mass Stranding: (Yes) / <u>(No)</u> # Animals <u>One (1)</u> Human Interaction: (Yes) / (No) / (?) Check one: <u>1. Boat collision</u> <u>2. Shot</u> <u>4. Fishery interaction</u> <u>X 5. Other</u> Found alive and healthy in the power plant intake structure. How determined: _____ Other Causes (if known): _____
--	---

DATE OF INITIAL OBSERVATION: Yr <u>2012</u> Mo <u>September</u> Day <u>21</u> CONDITION: Check one: <u>X 1. Alive</u> <u>2. Fresh dead</u> <u>3. Moderate decomp.</u> <u>4. Advanced decomp.</u> <u>5. Mummified</u> <u>? Unknown</u>	DATE OF EXAMINATION: Yr <u>2012</u> Mo <u>September</u> Day <u>21</u> CONDITION: Check one: <u>X 1. Alive</u> <u>2. Fresh dead</u> <u>3. Moderate decomp.</u> <u>4. Advanced decomp.</u> <u>5. Mummified</u> <u>? Unknown</u>
--	--

LIVE ANIMAL - Condition and Disposition: Check one <u>X 1. Released at site</u> or more: <u>2. Sick</u> <u>3. Injured</u> <u>4. Died</u> <u>5. Euthanized</u> <u>6. Rehabilitated and released</u> <u>? Unknown</u> Transported to: <u>1.0-Miles SW Offshore</u> (Died) / <u>(Released)</u> Date: <u>September 21, 2012</u>	TAGS APPLIED?: <u>(Yes)</u> / <u>(No)</u> TAGS PRESENT?: <u>(Yes)</u> / <u>(No)</u> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Dorsal</td> <td>Left</td> <td>Right</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tag No.(s):</td> <td></td> <td>MC-0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Color(s):</td> <td></td> <td>Silver</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Type:</td> <td></td> <td>Flipper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Placement</td> <td></td> <td><u>Front</u> / Rear</td> <td>Front / Rear</td> </tr> </table>		Dorsal	Left	Right	Tag No.(s):		MC-0		Color(s):		Silver		Type:		Flipper		Placement		<u>Front</u> / Rear	Front / Rear
	Dorsal	Left	Right																		
Tag No.(s):		MC-0																			
Color(s):		Silver																			
Type:		Flipper																			
Placement		<u>Front</u> / Rear	Front / Rear																		

CARCASS - Disposition, check one: Check one: <u>1. Left at site</u> <u>2. Buried</u> <u>3. Towed</u> <u>4. Sci. collection (see below)</u> <u>5. Edu. collection (see below)</u> <u>6. Other</u> <u>? Unknown</u> NECROPSIED? (Yes) / (No)	MORPHOLOGICAL DATA: Sex - Check one: <u>1. Male</u> <u>2. Female</u> <u>X ? Unknown</u> Straight Length: <u>19</u> (cm) / <u>(in)</u> (est) *Weight: <u>18</u> (kg) / <u>(lb)</u> (est?) PHOTOS TAKEN? <u>(Yes)</u> / (No)
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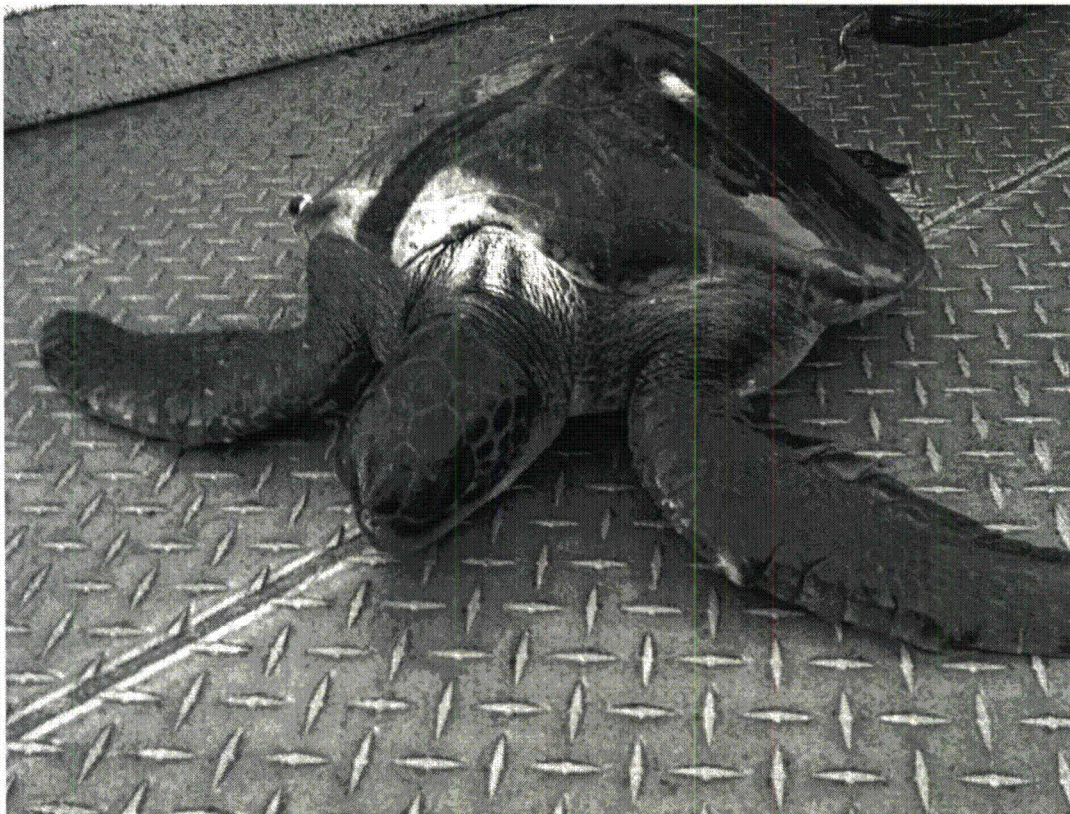
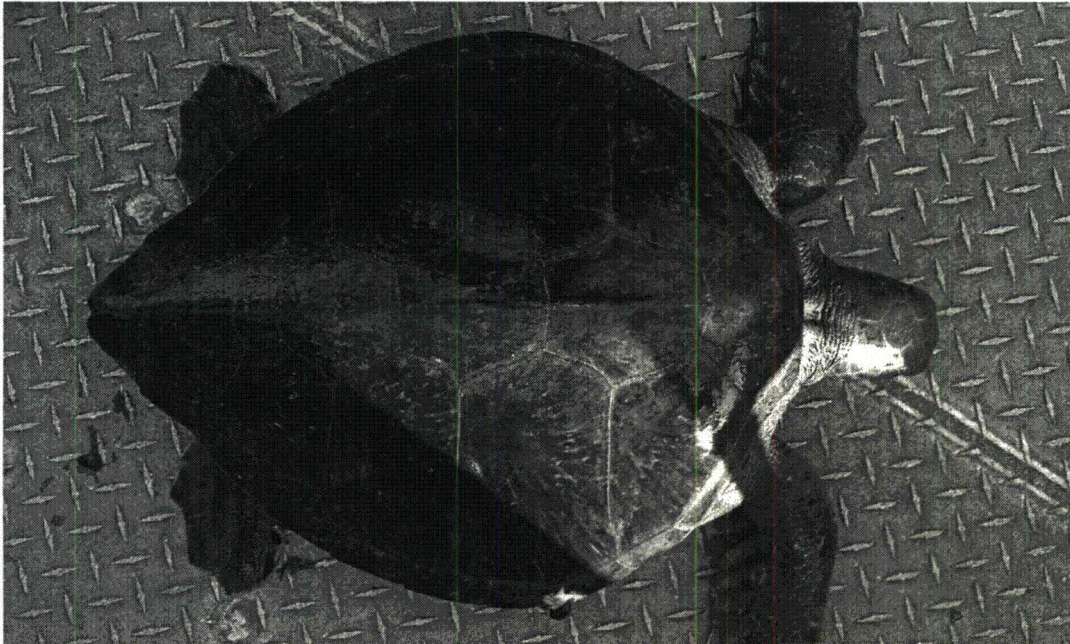
REMARKS: Straight Width (Widest Point) 18 & 1/2 inches; Tail Length 1 inch.  
A Lepas Barnacle was attached to the right edge of shell 1/3 of the length back from the  
front of the shell. Turtle appeared strong and healthy. No abrasions. No indications of  
any injury.

DISPOSITION OF TISSUE/SKELETAL MATERIAL: \_\_\_\_\_



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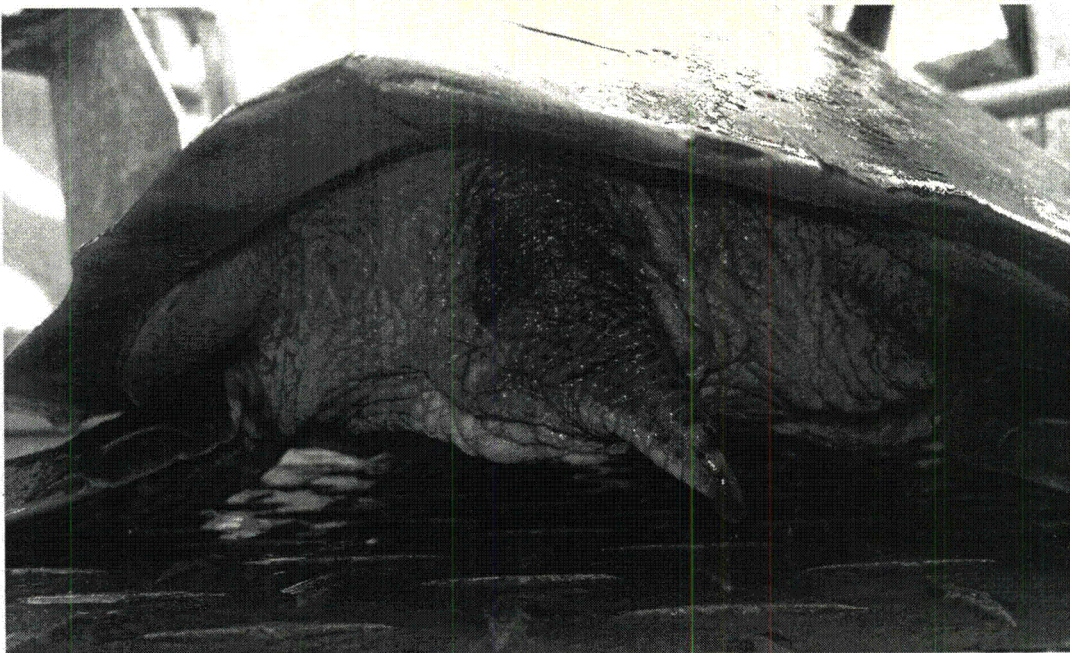
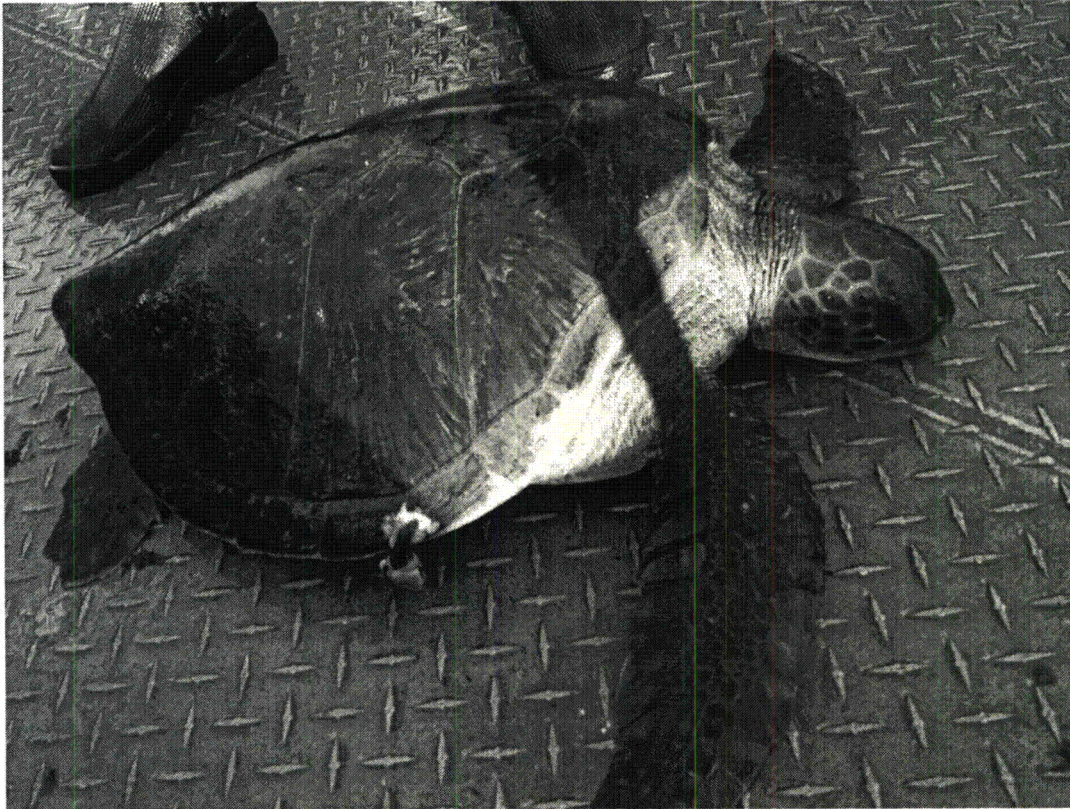
Specimen Photographs - Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant - September 21, 2012





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October 17, 2012

Specimen Photographs - Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)  
Diablo Canyon Power Plant - September 21, 2012



**APPENDIX 2**

Intake Inspection Records

September 20-21, 2012

(1-Page)

DCPP Intake Bar Rack Inspection Times  
During the 24-Hour Period Prior to  
Sea Turtle Sighting on September 21, 2012

Date	Unit 1	Unit 2	Operator ID	Condition
9/20/2012	0:49	0:49	Bigelow	SAT
9/20/2012	9:39	9:39	Auleb	SAT
9/20/2012	21:45	22:19	Batalla	SAT
9/21/2012	13:06	13:06	Neal	SAT
9/21/2012	15:45	15:45	Neal	One Turtle

SAT = Satisfactory - no turtles, kelp at acceptable levels, bar racks satisfactory condition.

Detailed shift operator logs are available at the facility which incorporate the intake inspections listed in the table above that were conducted September 20, 2012 and September 21, 2012.